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TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, JULY 3-6, 1987

A) STORIES COVERED IN REPORT:

1. LAVI CONTROVERSY.
2. THE U.S. AND M-E PEACE PROCESS.
3. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S IMAGE.

INTRODUCTION:

ALL MEDIA CONTINUED TO REPORT AND COMMENT ON THE LAVI, HIGHLIGHTING DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN'S ACCOUNT TO THE CABINET OF HIS WASHINGTON TALKS. THE PRESS OF JULY 6 FRONTPAGED PLANS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE IN PUBLIC SERVICES CALLED FOR NEXT SUNDAY BY THE TRADE UNIONS, IN PROTEST AGAINST THE STALEMATED ANNUAL WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. EDITORIALS PRAISED FRENCH JUSTICE FOR THE LIFE SENTENCE METED OUT TO **KLAUS BARBIE**. YEDIOT BANNERED A PROPOSAL BY A SENIOR GOVERNMENT PANEL FOR A SERIES OF ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. AN IDEA BY A LEADING ISRAELI RIGHTIST TO SHIP WEST BANK ARABS TO JORDAN INSPIRED A GREAT DEAL OF MOSTLY NEGATIVE REACTION.

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

1. LAVI CONTROVERSY:

-- ISRAEL TV CALLED THE LAVI "ISRAEL'S NO. 1 NATIONAL PROBLEM." THE JERUSALEM POST CITED "WASHINGTON OBSERVERS" TO THE EFFECT THAT "DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH THE LAVI WOULD DAMAGE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL." HA'ARETZ WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT BAREL WROTE THAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD REACT UNFAVORABLY TO WHAT MAY ERRONEOUSLY BE PERCEIVED AS AMERICAN HATRED FOR THE PROJECT.

-- ALL MEDIA REPORTED THAT ALTHOUGH DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WITH GENEROUS OFFERS OF HELP TO OFFSET THE CANCELLATION OF THE LAVI, THE CABINET, LED BY SHAMIR AND PERES, IS LIKELY TO ADOPT A PROPOSAL KEEPING THE PROJECT ALIVE, THOUGH CONSIDERABLY SCALED DOWN.

-- YEDIOT EDITORIAL CHARGED: "THE NATION CANNOT LIVE WITH THE LAVI, BUT SHAMIR AND PERES LACK THE POLITICAL STRENGTH TO STOP IT."

2. THE U.S. AND M-E PEACE PROCESS:

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-- MAARIV COLUMNIST ZAK ARGUED THAT AS FAR AS THE ARABS
ARE CONCERNED, AMERICA'S "BACKPEDALING" ON THE LAVI IS
FURTHER PROOF THAT THE U.S. IS LOSING GROUND IN THE M-E
TO THE SOVIET UNION. ZAK'S CONCLUSION: WITH A WEAK

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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